

7/29/85

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WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

JUNE 1985



DILHR

DEPARTMENT OF
INDUSTRY, LABOR & HUMAN RELATIONS

WISCONSIN DATA AND SOURCES

INDICATOR	SOURCE
L1 Composite Index of Leading Indicators	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L2 Average Work Week, Manufacturing	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L3 Average Overtime Hours, Mfg.	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L4 Average Weekly Initial Claims	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L5 Total Job Openings Received	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L6 New Business Incorporations	Wisconsin Secretary of State
L7 Net Gain in Business Phone Access Lines	Wis. Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.
L8 Building Plans Examined	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C1 Help-Wanted Advertising Index (Milw.)	National Industrial Conference Board
C2 Total Unemployment Rate	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C3 Natural Gas Sales	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
C4 New Car Registrations	Wis. Department of Transportation
C5 Electric Power Sales	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
C6 Total Securities Registrations	Wisconsin Commissioner of Securities
C7 Manufacturing Employment	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C8 Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg.	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C9 Cash Receipts From Farm Marketing	U.S. Department of Agriculture
C10 Contract Construction Employment	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
X1 Birth Registrations	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X2 Death Registrations	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X3 Natural Net Gain in Population	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X4 Marriage Registrations	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X5 Consumer Price Index (Milwaukee)	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
X6 Index of Prices Received By Farmers	Wisconsin Department of Agriculture
X7 Net Gain in Residential Phone Access Lines	Wis. Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.
X8 Labor Disputes, No. of Workers	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
X9 Unemployment Compensation Exhaustees	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations

NOTES: Selected series are seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of the Census X-11 Variant of the Census Method II Seasonal Adjustment Program. The adjusted data are plotted on arithmetic scales.

SECTION A is a summary of recent data and current changes for all indicators and is presented in chart form. The indicators are presented with cyclical timing as the principle basis of classification.

SECTION B is a summary of Wisconsin Labor Force Estimates, including Employment, Unemployment and Unemployment Rates, and selected U.S. data.

SECTION C analyzes the Wisconsin labor force by industry and by specified Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

SECTION D singles out certain economic time series as being leading or coinciding in relation to movements in aggregate economic activity. They are seasonally adjusted and presented graphically. The indicators are grouped by cyclical timing.

COVER PHOTO: Courtesy of Wisconsin Division of Tourism.

THE WISCONSIN ECONOMY

SUMMARY FOR MAY

WISCONSIN'S LEADING INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH POINT TOWARD ECONOMIC WELL-BEING. THE MAJORITY OF MAY INDICATORS GAVE POSITIVE SIGNALS. UNEMPLOYMENT DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY, BUT PROBABLY BECAUSE LABOR FORCE GROWTH WAS WEAK.

LEADING INDICATORS

The average number of hours worked per week by production workers increased by one hour in May. That is a significant increase for the statewide average. And, it was an increase that was well above the usual April to May seasonal trend.

The average workweek figure was boosted by an increase of average overtime hours in manufacturing. Overtime hours typically increase in summer, beginning in May, but this May's increase was slightly greater than the seasonal trend.

The longer average workweek in manufacturing in May was coupled with an increase of manufacturing workers. That combination suggests an increase of production and signifies economic health.

The average number of weekly initial claims for unemployment compensation decreased in May by nearly 25 percent. A large decrease of claims is usual for May, but this month's decline is a bit more than is seasonally normal. The initial claim drop coincided with a decrease of total unemployment that was unusually large for May. However, labor force growth was anemic.

The number of job openings received by state Job Service offices increased at a larger than normal pace for May.

Business formation and expansion looks

promising, as new business incorporations, net gain in business telephone access lines, and building plans examined all increased in May.

New business incorporations grew by nearly 100 in May, a month in which new incorporations usually decrease slightly.

The net gain in business telephone access line was somewhat below the seasonal pattern.

The number of building plans examined grew at well above the normal seasonal trend. Plans examined include commercial and industrial building plans only.

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE

The employment level throughout the state had a May gain of nearly 28 thousand more employed. Employment growth is normal in the April to May period, and this month's increase is just short of the normal seasonal trend.

The unemployment count, at the same time, dropped by nearly 15 thousand jobless workers. The number out of work usually does go down in May, but this May's decline well exceeds the normal seasonally downward trend.

The result of the near-normal employment growth coupled with the better-than-normal unemployment decrease was a lower unemployment rate. The rate dropped by 0.7 percentage points; a larger than normal drop.

The reason for the better-than-normal improvement was a smaller-than-normal labor force growth in May. Monthly labor force growth has been below par since the last quarter of 1984.

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WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY SERIES			% CHANGE		AVG.	
		Latest Month		Mo/Ago	Yr/Ago	Mo/Ago	Yr/Ago	1984
LEADING INDICATORS								
L1 COMPOSITE INDEX OF LEADING INDICATORS								
Seasonally Adjusted	INDEX	83.0	May	78.2	72.3	6.1	14.8	70.1
L2 AVG. WORK WEEK, MFG.								
Unadjusted	HOURS	41.1	May	40.1	41.0	2.5	0.2	41.1
Seasonally Adjusted		41.3		40.5	41.1	2.0	0.5	
L3 AVG. OVERTIME HOURS, MFG.								
Unadjusted	HOURS	3.2	May	2.8	3.0	14.3	6.7	3.2
Seasonally Adjusted		3.5		3.2	3.2	9.4	9.4	
L4 AVG. WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	8,190	May	10,873	7,455	-24.7	9.9	10,817
Seasonally Adjusted		10,678		11,152	9,716	-4.3	9.9	
L5 TOTAL JOB OPENINGS REC.								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	9,359	May	7,780	10,415	20.3	-10.1	8,694
Seasonally Adjusted		9,078		8,393	10,103	16.6	-10.1	
L6 NEW BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	598	May	507	634	17.9	-5.7	562
Seasonally Adjusted		571		469	605	21.7	-5.6	
L7 NET GAIN IN BUSINESS PHONES ACCESS LINES								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	1,947	May	1,471	1,691	32.4	15.1	328
Seasonally Adjusted		994		1,140	521	-12.8	1811.5	
L8 BUILDING PLANS EXAMINED								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	626	May	498	526	25.7	19.0	487
Seasonally Adjusted		589		504	495	16.7	19.0	
ROUGHLY COINCIDING INDICATORS								
C1 HELP-WANTED INDEX (MILW.)								
Seasonally Adjusted	INDEX	49	May	50	43	-2.0	14.0	52
C2 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, TOTAL								
Unadjusted	PERCENT	6.2	May	6.9	6.9	-	-	7.4
Seasonally Adjusted		6.8		7.4	7.9	-	-	
C3 NATURAL GAS SALES								
Unadjusted	MIL. THERMS	212.8	Apr	318.5	249.2	-33.2	-14.6	252.5
Seasonally Adjusted		206.6		232.5	241.9	-11.1	-14.6	
C4 NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	22,097	May	14,712	18,207	50.2	21.4	16,066
Seasonally Adjusted		19,891		15,038	16,397	32.3	21.3	
C5 ELECTRIC POWER SALES								
Unadjusted	MIL. KWH	1786.4	Apr	1861.8	1733.6	-4.0	3.0	1865.8
Seasonally Adjusted		1894.4		1816.4	1837.6	4.3	3.1	
C6 TOTAL SECURITIES REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	MIL. DOL.	122.4	May	49.6	67.1	146.8	82.4	89.4
Seasonally Adjusted		97.9		52.0	53.7	88.3	82.3	

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WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY SERIES			% CHANGE		AVG.	
		Latest Month		Mo/Ago	Yr/Ago	Mo/Ago	Yr/Ago	1984
C7 MANUFACTURING EMPL.								
Unadjusted	THOUS.	509.9	May	507.8	511.8	.4	-.4	518.3
Seasonally Adjusted		515.6		515.5	517.3	.02	-.3	
C8 AVG. WEEKLY EARNINGS, MFG.								
Unadjusted	DOLLARS	424.56	May	409.82	412.05	3.6	3.0	412.46
Seasonally Adjusted		424.56		414.38	411.91	2.5	3.1	
C9 CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MKTG.								
Unadjusted	MIL. DOL.	458.9	Dec	494.0	430.8	-7.1	6.5	435.9
Seasonally Adjusted		444.5		443.4	416.0	0.2	6.9	
C10 CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION EMPL.								
Unadjusted	THOUS.	61.8	May	54.1	56.9	14.2	8.6	58.3
Seasonally Adjusted		61.2		62.2	56.4	-1.6	8.5	
OTHER KEY INDICATORS								
X1 BIRTH REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	6,515	May	6,500	5,892	0.2	10.6	6,101
Seasonally Adjusted		6,193		6,612	5,599	6.3	10.6	
X2 DEATH REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	3,412	May	3,443	3,500	-0.9	-2.5	3,438
Seasonally Adjusted		3,335		3,546	3,420	-6.0	-2.5	
X3 NATURAL NET GAIN POPULATION								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	3,103	May	3,057	2,392	1.5	29.7	2,663
Seasonally Adjusted		2,734		3,158	2,108	-13.4	29.7	
X4 MARRIAGE REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	3,927	May	2,213	3,906	77.5	0.5	3,420
Seasonally Adjusted		2,995		2,567	2,979	16.7	0.5	
X5 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (MILW.)								
Unadjusted	INDEX	330.9	May	327.8	320.5	0.9	3.2	320.6
X6 PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS								
Unadjusted	INDEX	133	May	134	142	-.7	-6.3	144
Seasonally Adjusted		132		133	141	-.8	-6.4	
X7 NET GAIN IN RESIDENTIAL PHONES ACCESS LINES								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	-2,441	May	-1,069	-4,426	-128.3	44.8	750
Seasonally Adjusted		1,846		1,736	144	6.3	118.2	
X8 LABOR DISPUTES, NO. OF WORKERS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	504	May	104	459	384.6	9.8	520
Seasonally Adjusted		679		114	619	495.6	9.7	
X9 UNEMPL. COMPENSATION EXHAUSTEES								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	29,324	May	27,716	31,300	5.8	-6.3	28,186
Seasonally Adjusted		24,872		24,702	26,543	0.7	-6.3	

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES MAY	(In Thousands)			Pct. Chg.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2378.7	2366.0	2379.5	.5	-.0
Employment (Inc. Labor Disputes)	2231.0	2203.4	2216.3	1.3	.6
Unemployment	147.7	162.6	163.2	-9.2	-9.5
Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.9	6.9	-	-
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2385.0	2399.9	2445.6	-.6	-2.5
Employment (Inc. Labor Disputes)	2222.3	2223.3	2252.6	0	-1.3
Unemployment	162.7	176.6	193.0	-7.9	-15.7
Unemployment Rate	6.8	7.4	7.9	-8.1	-13.9

WISCONSIN EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES MAY	(In Thousands)			Pct. Chg.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	1994.0	1962.1	1934.1	1.6	3.1
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Manufacturing	509.4	507.7	511.4	.3	-.4
Mining	2.2	1.7	1.9	29.4	15.8
Contract Construction	61.8	54.1	56.9	14.2	8.6
Transportation and Public Utilities	92.1	90.2	90.4	2.1	1.9
Elec., Gas and Sanitary Services	17.2	17.1	16.9	.6	1.8
Wholesale Trade	101.2	100.4	99.4	.8	1.8
Retail Trade	372.1	361.5	352.2	2.9	5.7
General Merchandise	48.5	48.1	46.3	.8	4.8
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	106.3	105.5	101.3	.8	4.9
Banking	28.5	28.4	27.3	.4	4.4
Insurance	33.6	33.4	32.4	.6	3.7
Service and Miscellaneous	418.8	413.6	400.1	1.3	4.7
Hospitals	67.6	67.3	70.0	.4	-3.4
Private Education	24.5	25.5	23.4	-3.9	4.7
Government	330.2	327.4	320.5	.9	3.0
State Government	85.2	84.2	83.2	1.2	2.4
Local Government	217.6	216.3	210.4	.6	3.4

UNITED STATES LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES MAY	(In Thousands)			Pct. Chg.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	115,373	115,371	113,722	0.0	1.5
Employment	106,960	106,945	105,162	0.0	1.7
Unemployment	8,413	8,426	8,560	-0.2	-1.7
Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.3	7.5	-	-

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT (Unadjusted) MAY	(In Thousands)		
	Latest	Month	Year
	Month	Ago	Ago
All Manufacturing (Including Canning)	509.4	507.7	511.4
All Manufacturing (Excluding Canning)	502.4	501.1	505.0
Durable Goods	317.0	317.1	320.0
Lumber and Wood Prod., (Except Furniture)	21.4	21.0	21.8
Sawmills and Planning Mills	3.3	3.2	3.0
Millwork, Veneer, Plywood & Prefab. Wood Prod.	9.6	9.3	9.8
Furniture and Fixtures	10.9	11.5	9.8
Household Furniture	4.7	5.3	4.5
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	7.3	6.8	7.5
Concrete, Gypsum and Plaster Products	3.0	2.6	3.0
Primary Metal Industries	20.0	20.0	19.8
Iron and Steel Foundries	11.0	11.2	11.0
Fabricated Metal Products	49.1	49.3	50.6
Heating Equipment (Except Electrical) & Plumbing Fixtures	4.9	4.9	5.6
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	11.7	11.7	11.5
Metal Stampings	11.9	12.0	12.6
Machinery (Except Electrical)	102.0	102.3	100.9
Engines and Turbines	19.4	19.6	21.0
Farm Machinery and Equipment	12.7	12.9	13.5
Const., Min. & Material Handling Mach. & Equip.	11.0	11.1	11.2
Metalworking Machinery and Equipment	12.0	11.9	11.1
Special Industry Machinery (Except Metalworking)	11.3	11.2	10.5
General Industrial Machinery and Equipment	15.1	15.3	14.4
Service Industry Machines	7.7	7.8	7.7
Electrical Machinery, Equipment and Supplies	50.0	50.0	52.8
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	18.1	18.1	18.4
Household Appliances	6.6	6.5	7.0
Transportation Equipment	35.3	35.0	36.1
Motor Vehicles and Equipment	28.1	28.0	29.4
Instruments and Related Products	10.7	10.7	10.5
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.5	10.4	10.1
Nondurable Goods	192.3	190.6	191.4
Food and Kindred Products	58.0	57.2	59.3
Meat Products	13.8	13.4	13.9
Dairy Products	18.0	17.8	17.5
Canning and Preserving	7.0	6.7	6.4
Bakery Products	3.7	3.8	4.2
Beverage Industries	8.0	8.0	9.0
Textile Mill Products	5.0	4.9	4.6
Knitting Mills	4.2	4.1	3.9
Apparel and Other Finished Products	6.4	6.4	6.7
Paper and Allied Products	46.9	46.5	47.2
Pulp and Paper Mills	29.4	29.0	29.5
Converted Paper and Paperboard Products	9.5	9.3	9.4
Paperboard Containers and Boxes	6.9	6.9	7.1
Printing, Publishing and Allied Industries	37.3	37.2	35.9
Newspapers	11.8	11.7	11.2
Commercial Printing	15.5	15.5	15.1
Chemicals and Allied Products	10.0	9.8	9.8
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Products	21.0	20.9	20.4
Miscellaneous Plastics Products	16.8	16.6	15.9
Leather and Leather Products	7.4	7.5	8.2
Leather Tanning and Finishing	2.0	2.0	2.1
Footwear (Except Rubber)	3.8	3.8	4.3
Other Nondurable Goods	-	-	-

WISCONSIN EARNINGS AND HOURS DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS (Unadjusted)	Average Weekly			Average Weekly		
	Earnings			Hours		
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
MAY						
All Manufacturing (Incl. Canning)	\$425	\$410	\$412	41.1	40.1	41.0
All Manufacturing (Excl. Canning)	426	412	414	41.1	40.2	41.1
Durable Goods	436	419	425	41.2	40.0	41.4
Lumber/Wood Prod. (Exc. Furn.)	318	311	304	41.6	40.8	40.8
Furniture and Fixtures	296	298	308	40.2	41.4	41.7
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	403	396	405	42.8	41.3	42.6
Primary Metal Industries	404	414	416	40.9	41.5	42.4
Iron and Steel Foundries	393	416	425	39.3	41.1	42.5
Fabricated Metal Products	407	397	414	40.2	39.3	41.2
Fab. Structural Metal Prod.	431	421	430	42.6	41.9	42.4
Metal Stampings	398	373	388	39.5	36.9	39.1
Machinery (Except Electrical)	486	479	477	41.7	41.3	41.6
Engines and Turbines	534	520	493	41.6	40.9	40.8
Farm Machinery and Equip.	526	514	526	41.3	41.1	41.5
Const. and Related Mach.	477	472	505	41.1	40.8	41.8
Metalworking Mach. and Equip.	514	520	488	42.3	42.9	41.6
Spec. Ind. Mach. (Exc. Metal)	480	483	488	42.4	42.8	44.1
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	488	493	471	40.7	41.0	40.7
Electrical Mach., Equip. and Supp.	393	392	391	39.7	39.2	41.1
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	415	416	438	40.1	40.0	42.7
Transportation Equipment	604	504	554	42.9	36.5	42.4
Instruments and Related Prod.	358	341	318	39.9	38.7	38.4
Nondurable Goods	405	394	391	40.9	40.3	40.4
Food and Kindred Products	387	373	372	40.1	39.1	38.8
Meat Products	348	319	352	38.8	38.0	37.8
Dairy Products	393	389	363	41.0	40.6	39.0
Textile Mill Products	286	283	285	40.1	39.7	41.6
Apparel and Other Fin. Prod.	245	243	240	39.7	38.7	38.9
Paper and Allied Products	526	509	471	45.4	44.7	43.5
Pulp and Paper Mills	573	554	504	46.8	46.2	44.6
Printing, Pub. and Allied Prod.	405	405	442	37.6	37.7	39.5
Chemicals and Allied Products	456	443	446	41.6	40.7	42.1
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Prod.	317	314	319	39.0	38.7	39.3
Leather and Leather Products.	358	260	264	39.3	39.8	38.9

WISCONSIN EARNINGS AND HOURS DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS (Unadjusted)	Average Hourly Earnings			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Including O.T.			Excluding O.T.		
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
MAY						
All Manufacturing (Incl. Canning)	10.33	10.22	10.05	9.96	9.88	9.70
All Manufacturing (Excl. Canning)	10.37	10.25	10.08	10.00	9.92	9.73
Durable Goods	10.59	10.48	10.27	10.27	10.19	9.94
Lumber/Wood Prod. (Exc. Furn.)	7.64	7.63	7.44	7.51	7.56	7.18
Furniture and Fixtures	7.37	7.20	7.38	7.22	7.08	7.36
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	9.41	9.58	9.50	9.22	9.40	9.11
Primary Metal Industries	9.88	9.97	9.80	9.59	9.63	9.37
Iron and Steel Foundries	10.01	10.11	10.00	9.80	9.78	9.60
Fabricated Metal Products	10.13	10.09	10.05	9.79	9.75	9.64
Fab. Structural Metal Prod.	10.12	10.04	10.14	9.69	9.64	9.75
Metal Stampings	10.08	10.12	9.92	9.91	9.96	9.72
Machinery (Except Electrical)	11.65	11.60	11.46	11.28	11.26	11.17
Engines and Turbines	12.83	12.71	12.09	12.31	12.26	11.80
Farm Machinery and Equip.	12.73	12.50	12.67	12.39	12.20	12.38
Const. and Related Mach.	11.61	11.56	12.08	11.39	11.39	11.90
Metalworking Mach. and Equip.	12.16	12.12	11.73	11.71	11.67	11.37
Spec. Ind. Mach. (Exc. Metal)	11.33	11.28	11.06	10.86	10.77	10.56
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	12.00	12.02	11.56	11.69	11.73	11.27
Electrical Mach., Equip. and Supp.	9.90	10.01	9.52	9.71	9.81	9.27
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	10.34	10.39	10.26	10.19	10.20	9.92
Transportation Equipment	14.08	13.81	13.06	13.55	13.38	12.56
Instruments and Related Prod.	8.97	8.81	8.28	8.81	8.73	8.23
Nondurable Goods	9.90	9.78	9.68	9.44	9.36	9.26
Food and Kindred Products	9.66	9.53	9.59	9.17	9.12	9.25
Meat Products	8.97	8.40	9.31	8.56	8.13	9.10
Dairy Products	9.59	9.57	9.32	9.13	9.13	9.03
Textile Mill Products	7.14	7.13	6.84	6.94	6.94	6.63
Apparel and Other Fin. Prod.	6.18	6.27	6.17	6.04	6.15	6.00
Paper and Allied Products	11.58	11.38	10.82	11.04	10.85	10.33
Pulp and Paper Mills	12.25	11.99	11.29	11.66	11.42	10.74
Printing, Pub. and Allied Prod.	10.78	10.73	11.19	10.32	10.28	-
Chemicals and Allied Products	10.95	10.88	10.60	10.63	10.62	10.38
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Prod.	8.13	8.12	8.12	7.89	7.92	7.82
Leather and Leather Products	6.56	6.54	6.78	6.40	6.40	6.64

SUMMARY OF RECENT WISCONSIN DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS, MFG. Production Workers (Unadjusted)	Average Weekly						Average Hourly Earnings				
	Earnings			Hours			Including O.T.			Excluding O.T.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago
United States	\$381	\$380	\$371	40.2	40.1	40.7	9.48	9.48	9.12	-	-
Wisconsin	425	410	412	41.1	40.1	41.0	10.33	10.22	10.05	9.96	9.88
<i>Selected Areas</i>											
Appleton-Oshkosh (Calumet- Winnebago-Outagamie)	427	422	410	42.4	41.9	42.0	10.07	10.06	9.77	9.68	9.67
Beloit (City)	359	359	366	38.2	38.6	38.8	9.41	9.31	9.42	-	-
Eau Claire (Eau Claire-Chippewa)	433	432	406	41.5	42.1	41.4	10.44	10.27	9.80	9.99	-
Fond du Lac (County)	378	376	404	42.1	40.7	44.5	8.98	9.23	9.07	8.67	8.97
Green Bay (Brown County)	462	443	440	41.1	40.3	41.3	11.25	11.00	10.66	10.56	10.35
Janesville (City)	628	537	610	44.3	39.9	44.8	14.17	13.46	13.64	13.63	13.21
Janesville-Beloit (Rock County)	525	470	511	42.2	39.6	42.9	12.43	11.87	11.92	11.84	11.58
Kenosha (County)	517	362	464	40.9	29.8	40.2	12.63	12.16	11.55	12.41	11.92
La Crosse (County)	353	353	339	37.9	38.6	38.3	9.31	9.15	8.86	8.88	8.76
Madison (Dane County)	390	379	384	40.7	40.6	40.0	9.58	9.33	9.59	9.17	8.98
Manitowoc (County)	379	344	351	40.3	36.7	39.6	9.40	9.36	8.86	9.17	9.19
Milwaukee (Milwaukee-Ozaukee- Waukesha-Washington)	470	463	457	40.9	40.4	41.2	11.50	11.47	11.10	10.99	10.98
Racine (County)	415	417	418	38.9	39.2	40.0	10.66	10.65	10.45	10.38	10.39
Sheboygan (County)	384	381	390	39.2	39.2	40.6	9.79	9.71	9.60	9.50	9.43
Wausau (Marathon County)	401	390	387	42.3	41.7	41.8	9.48	9.35	9.25	9.10	9.09

EMPLOYMENT, MFG. (Unadjusted) MAY	(In Thousands)			Percent Change	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
United States	19,423.0	19,380.0	19,370.0	0.2	0.3
Wisconsin	509.4	507.7	511.4	0.3	-0.4
<i>Selected Areas</i>					
Appleton-Oshkosh (Calumet- Winnebago-Outagamie)	46.6	46.3	46.2	0.6	0.9
Beloit (City)	5.7	5.6	5.7	1.8	0
Eau Claire (Eau Claire-Chippewa)	9.0	9.0	9.1	0	-1.1
Fond du Lac (County)	10.4	10.7	10.4	2.8	0
Green Bay (Brown County)	22.6	22.5	22.0	0.4	2.7
Janesville (City)	10.9	10.9	10.7	0	1.9
Janesville-Beloit (Rock County)	18.7	18.6	18.7	0.5	0
Kenosha (County)	14.3	14.4	16.1	-0.7	-11.2
La Crosse (County)	10.4	10.5	10.6	-1.0	-1.9
Madison (Dane County)	21.0	20.6	19.6	1.9	7.1
Manitowoc (County)	10.8	10.8	11.3	0	-4.4
Milwaukee (Milwaukee-Ozaukee- Waukesha-Washington)	170.2	169.8	174.4	0.2	-2.4
Racine (County)	25.2	25.4	25.5	-0.8	-1.2
Sheboygan (County)	18.2	18.4	18.6	-1.1	-2.2
Wausau (Marathon County)	11.4	11.5	11.0	-0.9	3.6

EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT—THE QUIET CRISIS

by Stephen B. Blumenfeld

On April 4th, President Reagan signed into law a bill phasing out supplemental compensation for the long-term unemployed. The supplemental aid program had provided between eight and 14 additional weeks of benefits to about 320,000 unemployed workers across the country who had exhausted other jobless benefits to which they were entitled under the permanent federal-state system.

The Federal Supplemental Compensation (FSC) program was begun in 1982 as a temporary anti-recession measure. It added a third tier to the basic federal-state Unemployment Insurance (UI) system. The first tier is state Unemployment Compensation (UC), which provides up to 26 weeks of benefits. Additional payments of up to 13 weeks are provided under the federal-state Extended Benefits (EB) program, the second tier, which was created to provide aid in times of economic distress. However, such benefits are triggered by the artificially restrictive Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR), which excludes long-term unemployed persons and is appreciably lower than a state's official Total Unemployment Rate (TUR). At the end of this February, only two states and Puerto Rico qualified for EB.

How has the State of Wisconsin fared with regard to the crisis of long-term unemployment?

A comparison of unemployment figures for Wisconsin over the past ten years reveals a significant increase in the ranks of long-term jobless (see Table 1). In 1975, of the average monthly total of 1,603,428 workers covered by the state U.C. law, 99,413, or 6.2 percent, received benefits. Last

year, 60,833 of the average monthly total of 1,844,946 covered workers - 3.3 percent - received benefits under the current program. At first glance, these figures appear to indicate a sharp decline in the number of unemployed persons in Wisconsin; however, in reality, the state's TUR was actually .9 of a percentage point higher in 1984 than in 1975!

Labor force data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) indicate that approximately 176,000 Wisconsin workers over 16 years of age were officially unemployed during the average month last year. Thus, the average monthly total of 60,833 workers actually receiving U.C. benefits under the Wisconsin law represents only 34.7 percent of those officially unemployed in the state during 1984.

A key indicator of the severity of unemployment is the length of time that workers are unable to find jobs (see Table 2). Although the annual average percentage of persons unemployed in Wisconsin for more than the 26-week basic coverage period under the state's U.C. law fell from 30.8 in 1983 to 24.0 in 1984, that figure is still nearly 20 percentage points higher than the prerecession figure of 4.1 percent for 1979. In the past five years, the annual average number of persons out of work for more than six months in Wisconsin increased by 247 percent (from 17,069 in 1980 to 42,240 in 1984).

Throughout the nation, the 1981-82 recession resulted in levels of long-term unemployment far greater than any experienced in the last 50 years.

WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Even though the problem of long-term unemployment is present during periods of expansion as well as during recessionary times, the focus during "good" times shifts to the structurally ("hard-core") unemployed.

Long-term joblessness can have profound financial, emotional and even physical consequences for the unemployed and their families. Hardest hit by the crisis of long-term unemployment are racial minorities, due, in part, to their higher probability of becoming unemployed in the first place. Researchers attribute the lower duration of unemployment for women and youths to the greater tendency among these groups to withdraw from the work force and not to any greater success in finding employment!

For most of the long-term jobless during the past three years, the third tier of the unemployment safety net, Federal Supplemental Compensation (FSC) provided the only benefits received after the initial 26 weeks of unemployment.

Considerable debate over ways in which future additional assistance may be provided for long-term unemployed workers has taken place in Congress during recent months. Opponents of extending the FSC program, including the Reagan administration, claimed that continuation of supplemental aid could not be justified during a time of economic expansion and

when there exists considerable public pressure to curtail federal expenditures.

Nevertheless, several recent efforts to force future consideration of aid for the long-term unemployed have been made. One such step was the March 28th approval by the House Ways and Means Public Assistance Subcommittee of a measure aimed at simplifying and revamping the existing system by replacing EB and FSC with a single program that would use a state's TUR rather than relate solely to the IUR. The Reagan administration, however, maintains that the UI system was intended to provide assistance only to workers who face temporary, short-term unemployment and is not the appropriate means for dealing with the needs of the long-term jobless.

Thus, the dilemma of the long-term unemployed is a continuing problem and one which is becoming of growing concern. Government policies aimed at promoting full employment and providing jobs - both in the public and private sectors - are essential. However, in the absence of adequate opportunities in the job market, increased benefit protection for the jobless through the Unemployment Compensation system is necessary. More adequate protection is essential not only for the unemployed themselves but also for their families and for those communities hit hardest by the recent recession, the worst to hit this nation since the Great Depression.

TABLE 1
WISCONSIN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	Total Unemployment Rate (TUR)	Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR)	Gap Between TUR and IUR
1975	7.0%	6.2%	.8%
1976	5.6%	4.4%	1.2%
1977	4.9%	3.7%	1.2%
1978	4.7%	2.8%	1.9%
1979	4.5%	3.0%	1.5%
1980	7.0%	5.4%	1.6%
1981	7.8%	4.9%	2.9%
1982	10.7%	6.8%	3.9%
1983	10.4%	5.1%	5.3%
1984	7.9%	3.3%	4.6%

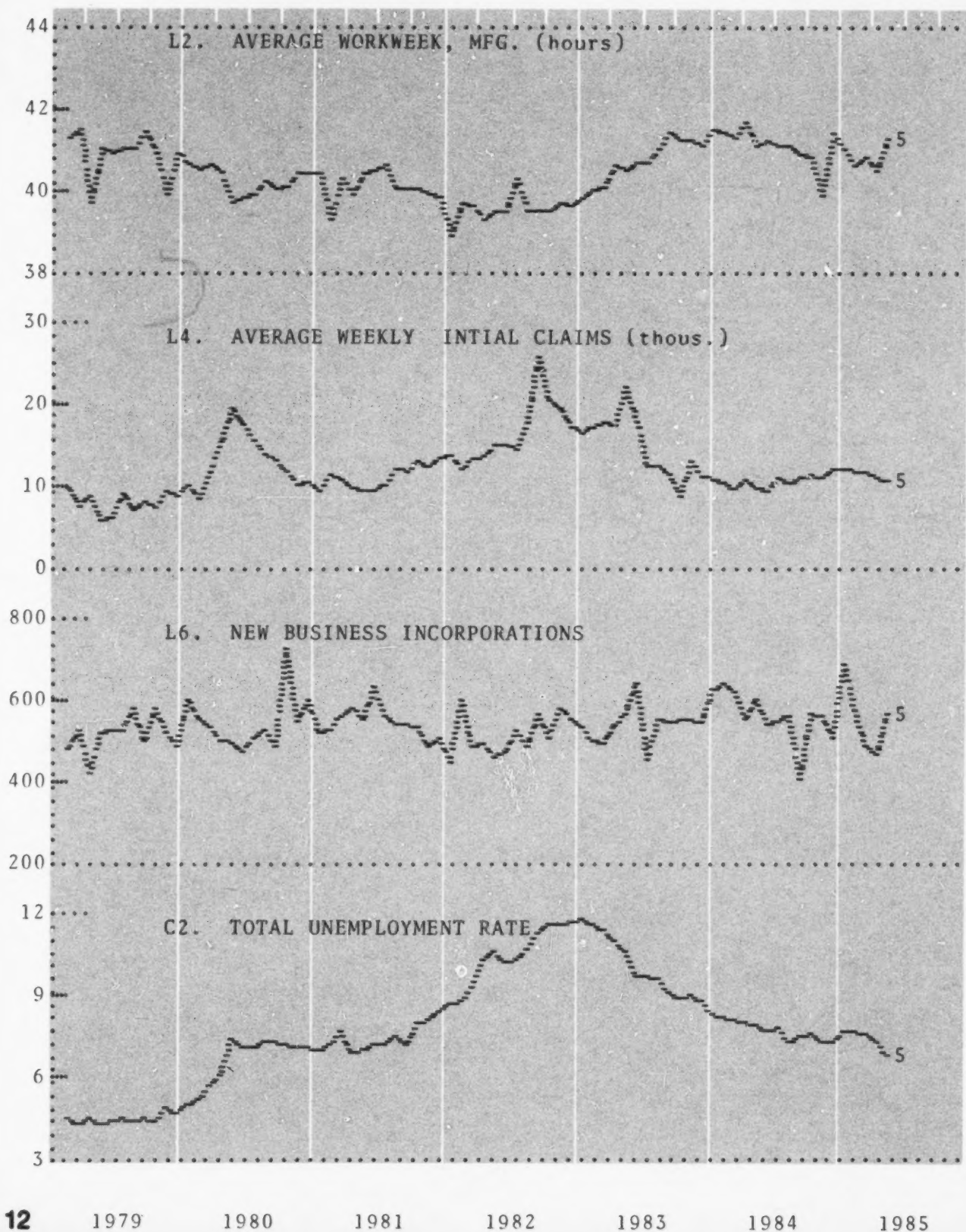
Note: The Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) is determined by dividing the "Completed Weeks of Unemployment," which is an estimate of the number of insured workers receiving state-funded Unemployment Compensation in a given week, by Wisconsin's average monthly covered employment. The IUR measures only the joblessness among those workers who are covered by and are receiving state-funded benefits under the Wisconsin Unemployment Compensation Law. Because some workers are not covered by the state program, the IUR should not be misconstrued to be an indicator of the unemployment rate among the total civilian labor force.

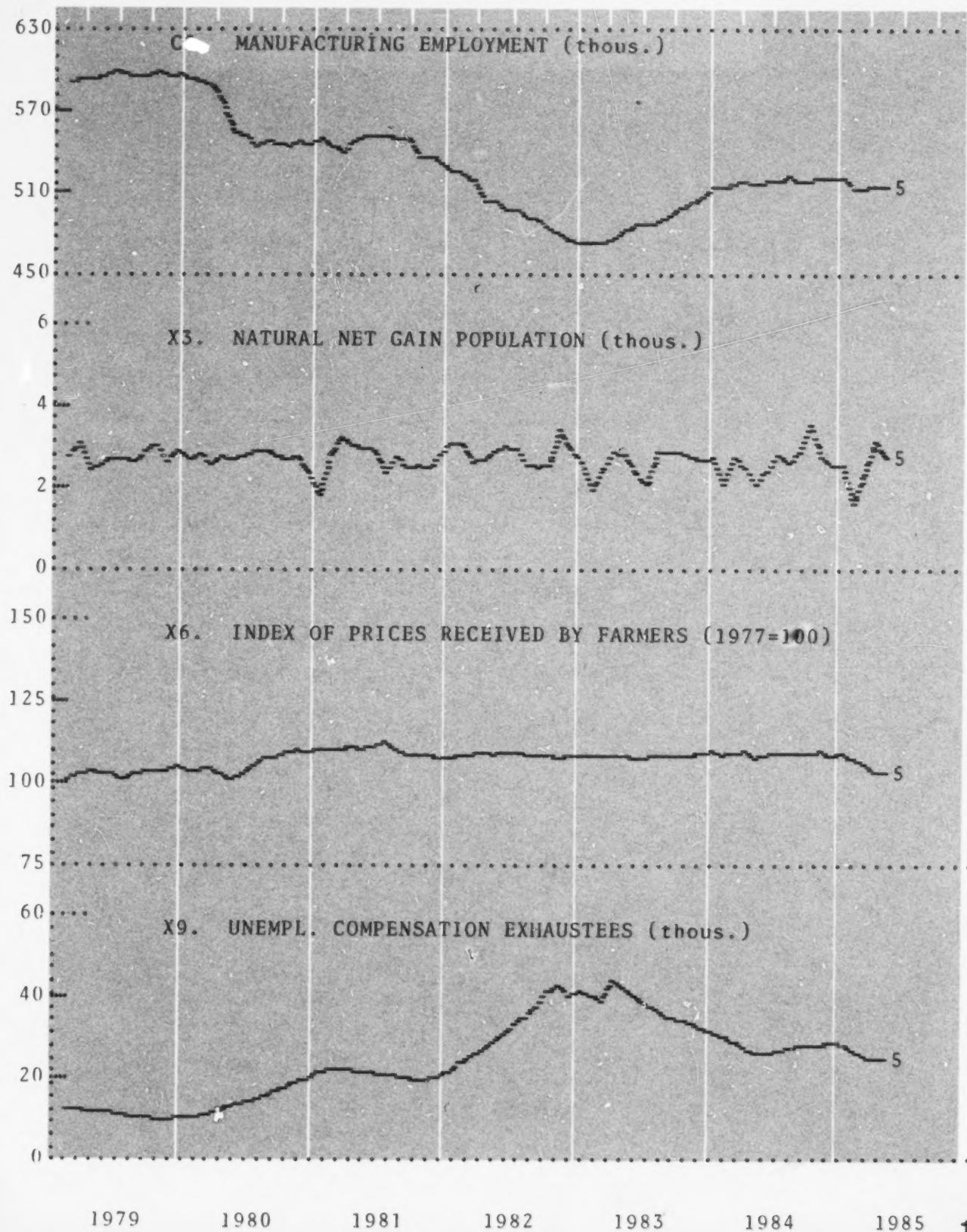
TABLE 2
WISCONSIN: UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (ANNUAL AVERAGES)

		Percentages		
	Number (In thous.)	Less Than 15 weeks	15-26 weeks	27 weeks and over
1975	148	70.5%	15.6%	13.8%
1976	122	62.6%	15.2%	22.2%
1977	109	73.9%	13.1%	12.9%
1978	57	79.7%	9.9%	10.4%
1979	51	87.4%	8.5%	4.1%
1980	169	73.9%	16.0%	10.1%
1981	185	66.0%	15.8%	18.2%
1982	261	61.2%	16.0%	22.8%
1983	254	55.1%	14.1%	30.8%
1984	176	64.6%	11.4%	24.0%

Note: Items may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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